

241 custom of their own from cultivating the *landoo*, in which
 231 case they plant certain other trees favourable to the growth of
 784 the lac insect. The villages are situated near their patches of
 cultivation in the forest. The villages are constantly shifting,
 361 owing to the necessity of burning fresh tracts of forest every
 241 two years. The houses are entirely built of bamboo, and, for
 such temporary structures, are very well built. In front, the
 342 houses are raised some 3 or 4 ft. from the ground on plat-
 forms, being generally built on the side of a fairly steep
 hill, one end of the house resting on the ground, and the other
 on bamboo posts. The back end of the house is some-
 times some 8 or 9 ft. from the ground. At the end of the
 house farthest away from the village path is a platform used
 for sitting out in the evening, and for spreading chillies and
 other articles to dry. Some Lymngam houses have only one
 342 room in which men, women, and children are all huddled
 354 together, the hearth being in the centre, and, underneath the
 231 platform, the pigs. Well-to-do people, however, possess a
 retiring room, where husband and wife sleep. A house I
 342 measured at Nongsolbar village was of the following
 dimensions:—Length, 42 ft.; breadth, 16 ft.; height of house
 from the ground to the eaves, front, 9 ft.; back 18 ft. Houses
 are built with a portion of the thatch hanging over the eaves in
 front. No explanation could be given me for this. It is prob-
 ably a Garo custom. In some Lymngam villages there are
 houses in the centre of the village where the young unmarried
 men sleep, where male guests are accommodated, and where the
 village festivities go on. These are similar to the *dekachang* or
 bachelors' club-houses of the Mikirs, Garos, and Lalungs, and to
 the *morang* of the Nagas. This is a custom of the Thibeto-
 Burman tribes in Assam, and is not a Khasi institution. There
 [77] are also high platforms, some 12 ft. or 15 ft. in height, in
 [57] Lymngam villages, where the elders sit of an evening in the hot
 • [55] weather and take the air. Lymngam houses and villages are
 usually much cleaner than the ordinary Khasi villages, and
 although the Lymngams keep pigs, they do not seem to be so
 352 much *en évidence* as in the Khasi village. There is little
 513 or no furniture in a Lymngam house. The Lymngam sleeps on
 247 a mat on the floor, and in cold weather covers himself with a

273 krem. Before I could enter a hut the occupants
had to remove a man who was dead drunk. Over
352 the fireplace hangs a rack on which wood is piled
up for drying; also food provisions, rice, etc.
are kept dry here during the rainy season. Be-
hind it a rack made of sturdy beams runs straight
through the center and sometimes extends along
the sides. On it all kinds of household items
are kept. In the better houses the best dishes
of shiny, polished brass and china are displayed
here. This rack also serves as a partition be-
hind which, on the sides and at the rear wall of
the house, are the sleeping accommodations.

•[35] Considering the very unprepossessing physical
appearance of the people, it is surprising how
orderly and clean the houses are kept inside.

342 In the principal towns the well-to-do have al-
ready adopted the brick building and European
comfort. With the Lymgam and the Bhoi, however,
we still find the pile dwelling (77). The houses

77. Gurdon, *ibid.*, p. 32. There
it is mentioned (above) that in
some villages of the subdivision
of the War pile dwellings are
built because the main part of the
house rests on firm ground on the
mountain side and then extends on
piles over the slope. (Cf. the
Garos.) The same people still use
the bachelor house.

have a length from 10 to 12 meters with a veranda
which among the Lymgam is in front, among the
Bhoi in the rear of the house. These people
[24] still practise migratory agriculture and there-
fore move their flimsily constructed houses every
two or three years when they change to new fields.
It follows that the Khasi house, as described
above, represents an advanced construction method.
That in earlier days bamboo construction was